

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated September 22, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to the points of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-13 and 15-33 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 13 and 15 are amended above. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 2 and 14 are cancelled above.

The Examiner objected to Claim 13 because of certain informalities. Claim 13 is amended above and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over EP 0631147A1 (Mallory), in view of US Patent No.4,000,458 (Miller). The Examiner indicated that Claims 2-12 and 14-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner indicated that Claims 24-32 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks in support of the patentability of the pending claims.

1. Claims 1 and 3-12:

The Examiner indicated that original claims 2-12 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the additional recitation of original claim 2. Original Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 4-12 depend from Claim 3.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 3-12 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

2. Claims 13 and 15-23

The Examiner indicated that original claims 14-23 contained allowable subject matter. Claim 13 has been rewritten to include the additional recitation of original claim 14. Original Claim 14 has been cancelled. Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 16-23 depend from Claim 15.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 13 and 15-23 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 13 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

3. Claims 24-33:

On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 24-32 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 33 depends from Claim 32. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 33 also contains allowable subject matter.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 24-33 are in condition for allowance.

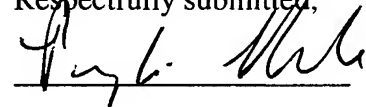
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Please charge all applicable fees associated with the submittal of this Amendment and any other fees applicable to this application to the Assignee's Deposit Account No. 07-0868.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



Penny A. Clarke
Reg. No. 46, 627

General Electric Company
Building K1, Room 3A72
Schenectady, New York 12301
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Telephone: (518) 387-5349